

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENOA 00528 01 OF 02 121520Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-05
CA-01 SCSE-00 USIA-15 EB-08 IO-14 IGA-02 TRSE-00
AGRE-00 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 /145 W
-----061252 121629Z /45

R 111200Z OCT 77
FM AMCONSUL GENOA
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2040
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL TURIN
COMMANDER USASETAF/VICENZA/COMMANDING GENERAL
8TH SPT GROUP LIVORNO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENOA 0528

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, PUBLIC WELFARE, IT
SUBJ: GENOA FLOODS# THE TOLL AND THE AFTERMATH

REF: A) GENOA'S 0517
B) GENOA'S 0520
C) ROME S 16500
D) SECSTATE 243484
E) DI SCIULLO TELCONS WITH EMBASSY ROME AND SETAF VICENZA

SUMMARY: LIFE IN THE CITY OF GENOA HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL. PORT, AIRPORT, AND ALL MAJOR RAIL AND ROAD TRAFFIC AS WELL AS ALL COMMUNICATION LINKS BETWEEN GENOA AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY ARE NOW OPERATIONAL. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO ADDITIONAL VICTIMS IN GENOA BEYOND THE ONE REPORTED IN GENOA S 0517. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY DAMAGES IN GENOA ARE ESTIMATED IN THE 2 BILLION LIRE (DOLLARS 2,270,000) RANGE. THE SITUATION IN THE SMALL TOWNS OF CAMPOLIGURE AND ROSSIGLIONE, BOTH IN THE PROVINCE OF GENOA AND BOTH HARD-HIT BY THE FLOODS, IS STILL SERIOUS, BUT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENOA 00528 01 OF 02 121520Z

UNDER CONTROL AND IMPROVING RAPIDLY. ONE PERSON DIED AND ONE IS STILL MISSING IN CAMPOLIGURE. MIRACULOUSLY, THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES IN ROSSIGLIONE. MAJOR HIGHWAY TRAFFIC TO AND FROM THE TWO TOWNS HAS BEEN REOPENED, RAIL TRAFFIC SOUTHWARD TO GENOA HAS ALSO BEEN PARTIALLY RESUMED. IN BOTH TOWNS, ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN PARTIALLY RESTORED# MUCH OF THE DEBRIS STILL REMAINS TO BE CLEARED FROM BASEMENTS AND STREET FLOORS OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS#

THE ACQUEDUCTS SERVING THE TWO AREAS ARE INOPERATIVE AND WATER MUST STILL BE TRUCKED N# THE TWO TOWN HOSPITALS ARE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED IN THEIR OPERATION BECAUSE OF LOSS OF MOST OF THEIR LABORATORY EQUIPMENT# THE TOWNS SMALL ARTISAN, TEXTILE AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN ALMOST TOTALLY DESTROYED OR DAMAGED. ESTIMATED DAMAGE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY IS IN THE 5 BILLION LIRE (DOLLARS 5,675,000) RANGE IN CAMPOLIGURE AND DOUBLE THAT IN ROSSIGLIONE. DAMAGE ESTIMATES TO PRIVATE PROPERTIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE BUT ARE LIKELY TO BE AS HIGH AS THOSE FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF INJURIES TO US CITIZENS OR DAMAGE TO US PROPERTY IN THE AFFECTED AREAS. GENOA PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HAVE YET TO SUBMIT TO US THE LIST OF ITEMS THEY EARLIER TOLD US (REF C) THEY MIGHT NEED TO COPE WITH THE EMERGENCY IN CAMPOLIGURE AND ROSSIGLIONE.
END SUMMARY

I ASSUME CONSULATE TURIN IS REPORTING ON THE FLOOD SITUATION IN THE ADJACENT ALESSANDRIA PROVINCE WHERE THE HUMAN TOLL HAS BEEN HIGH (15 DEATHS) AND PROPERTY DAMAGES EXTENSIVE.

1. GENOA PROVINCE WAS THE ONLY ONE OF THE FOUR PROVINCES IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT TO FEEL THE FURY AND THE DEVASTATION OF THE FLOOD. WHEN CONTACTED BY CG, AUTHORITIES IN THE OTHER THREE PROVINCES REPORTED SITUATION TO BE NORMAL WITH NO RPT NO INCIDENTS OF CASUALTIES, DAMAGES OR HARDSHIP.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENOA 00528 01 OF 02 121520Z

2. GENOA: THE FLOOD THAT STRUCK GENOA WAS CAUSED PRIMARILY BY RAIN WATER CHANNELLED DOWN THE CITY'S NARROW STREETS INTO THE LOW LYING AREAS. THERE WAS NO ACCUMULATION OF THE USUAL DEBRIS ASSOCIATED WITH RIVER FLOODS. DAMAGE, THEREFORE, WAS GENERALLY LIMITED TO THE LOSS OF FOODSTUFF AND STOCKS IN THE AFFECTED AREAS, WITH LITTLE PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION OF PLANTS OR EQUIPMENT. THE SITUATION IN GENOA IS NOW PRACTICALLY NORMAL WITH FEW VISIBLE SIGNS OF FLOOD-RELATED DAMAGE. THERE HAS BEEN NO RAIN FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS AND THE SKIES ARE CLEAR.

3. CAMPOLIGURE AND ROSSIGLIONE: OVER THE WEEK-END, MY WIFE AND I RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE GENOA PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES TO TOUR CAMPOLIGURE AND ROSSIGLIONE, WHERE WE MET WITH THE MAYORS, THE ALDERMEN AND THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORS, MANY LOCAL BUSINESS PEOPLE, LOCAL RESIDENTS, ITALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND VOLUNTEER WORKERS.

THESE TWO TOWNS, (EACH WITH A POPULATION OF SOME 3,000) ARE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 20 MILES NORTHWEST OF GENOA ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE STURA RIVER, AND WERE HARD-HIT BY THE STORMS THAT MOVED NORTH FROM GENOA ON OCTOBER 7TH. THE MOST SERIOUS DAMAGES WERE CAUSED NOT SO MUCH BY THE STURA RIVER ITSELF BUT BY SWOLLEN

FEEDER STREAMS WHICH RUN THROUGH THE TWO TOWNS. FLOOD-INDUCED DEBRIS (MOSTLY TREES, MUD AND ROCKS) PILED UP AGAINST THE SMALL TOWN BRIDGES THUS FORMING TEMPORARY DAMS WITH ENORMOUS BACK-UP OF FLOOD WATERS BEHIND THEM. ONCE THESE DAMS GAVE WAY, WATER AND DEBRIS LITERALLY EXPLODED DOWNSTREAM THROUGH NEARLY ALL THE STREETS OF BOTH TOWNS INVADING ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS UP TO THE FIRST FLOOR LEVEL.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENOA 00528 02 OF 02 121526Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-05
CA-01 SCSE-00 USIA-15 EB-08 IO-14 IGA-02 TRSE-00
AGRE-00 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 /145 W
-----061465 121631Z /45

R 111200Z OCT 77
FM AMCONSUL GENOA
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2041
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL TURIN
COMMANDER USASETAF/VICENZA/COMMANDING GENERAL
8TH SPT GROUP LIVORNO

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 GENOA 0528

4. MOST OF THE STREETS, SQUARES, AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN CLEARED. THE BASEMENTS AND FIRST FLOORS OF NEARLY ALL WORKSHOPS AND HOMES, HOWEVER, ARE STILL CLUGGED WITH MUD AND OTHER DEBRIS. IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE SOME TWO WEEKS TO CLEAR IT ALL UP.

ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN RESTORED PARTIALLY IN BOTH TOWNS. WATER, HOWEVER, MUST STILL BE TRUCKED IN BECAUSE ACQUEDUCTS ARE INOPERATIVE. THERE HAS BEEN NO PRECIPITATION IN THE TWO AREAS FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS AND THE SKIES ARE REPORTED CLEAR.

5. DAMAGE ESTIMATES TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR ALONE, AS GIVEN TO ME BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ARE: 5 BILLION LIRE FOR CAMPOLIGURE AND 10 BILLION LIRE FOR ROSSIGLIONE. BOTH TOWNS HAVE PLENTY OF VOLUNTEER MANPOWER AND HEAVY EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT, AND AMPLE SUPPLIES OF FOODSTUFF, MEDICINES AND CLOTHING. MOST NEEDED, ACCORDING TO THE AUTHORITIES IN BOTH TOWNS, ARE SUCH BASIC TOOLS AS WHEELBARROWS, SHOVELS, CHAIN SAWS, WATER PUMPS, AND FLASH

LIGHTS AS WELL AS RUBBER BOOTS AND RAINWARE. SIMILARLY, THE HOSPITALS ON BOTH TOWNS (TOTAL CAPACITY 120 BEDS, 75 OF THEM IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENOA 00528 02 OF 02 121526Z

CAMPOLIGURE) HAVE SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL, MEDICINES AND FOODSTUFF TO CARE FOR THEIR PATIENTS, BUT MOST OF THEIR LABORATORY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN EITHER DESTROYED OR BADLY DAMAGED. THE CAMPOLIGURE HOSPITAL HAS ALSO LOST ALL ITS KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AND REFRIGERATION FACILITIES.

COMMENT: IN MY CONVERSATION WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE TWO TOWNS, I STRESSED THE FACT-FINDING NATURE OF MY VISIT. I ONLY ASSURED THEM THAT I WOULD ALERT US CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES AS TO THE TYPE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT THE TWO TOWNS MOST NEEDED. (REF. E) I TOLD THEM THAT I WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE GENOA PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS CHARGED WITH THE COORDINATION OF ALL AID TO THE AREA, FOR ANY EVENTUAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IT MIGHT REQUEST FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL.

I DO NOT KNOW WHEN OR EVEN WHETHER THE GENOA PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION WILL SUBMIT THE LIST OF ITEMS IT HAD EARLIER INDICATED TO US IT MIGHT NEED TO COPE WITH THE EMERGENCY IN CAMPOLIGURE AND ROSSIGLIONE. I SHOULD LIKE TO STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THE US IS STILL PERCEIVED BY THOSE SMALL COMMUNITIES AS A MOST GENEROUS AND HUMANE ALLY WITH MIRACULOUS PROBLEM-SOLVING TALENTS AND CAPACITY. I WAS IMPRESSED DURING MY VISIT BOTH WITH THE ENORMOUS RESERVOIR OF GOODWILL THAT THE US ENJOYS IN THOSE TWO COMMUNITIES AND WITH THE MANY ACTS OF COURAGE, SELF-SACRIFICE, AND DIGNITY WITH WHICH THEIR PEOPLE FACE THE CALAMITY. THESE PEOPLE NEED AND DESERVE HELP. I AM NOT ADVOCATING A COURSE OF ACTION DESIGNED SIMPLY TO SCORE COUPS FOR OUR SIDE, BUT I RESPECTFULLY RECOMMEND THAT, AFTER DULY CHECKING WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, WE GIVE THE MOST SERIOUS AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO ANY REASONABLE REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THAT WE MAY GET FROM THE GENOA PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES.DI SCIULLO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, REPORTS, NATURAL DISASTERS, FLOODS, TOLLS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENOA00528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770371-0959
Format: TEL
From: GENOA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771075/aaaacmaz.tel
Line Count: 209
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 53212633-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENOA 517
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 971096
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENOA FLOODS# THE TOLL AND THE AFTERMATH
TAGS: SWEL, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/53212633-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009